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Title : Need to take steps to make Brahmaputra river pollution free - laid.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (KARIMGANJ): Water of almost all rivers in the country is polluted. It is heartening to know that there is marked improvement of water quality in certain very populated cities/towns situated on the banks of Ganga river and that National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 160 towns along the polluted stretches of 34 rivers spread over 20 States. Brahmaputra river, is one of the largest rivers in India and regarded as the lifeline for people of whole of Assam and certain areas of the neighbouring States. Water of this river is extremely contaminated due to uncontrolled disposal of industrial effluent and urban sewage raising its pollution level very high. More than 16 million people in Guwahati and millions living on the banks of this river are exposed to water borne diseases. The livestock, fish and crops are also affected. Unfortunately Assam has not been included in the NRCP list. Assam is one of the most backward States − afflicted by severe unemployment and poverty. Most people here are ignorant about pollution and without means to adopt alternative methods of safe drinking water. Therefore, in the near future my State will not only be economically backward but physically ailing too. I therefore urge the Ministry of Environment & Forests to take immediate step so that the State Government in collaboration with Central Pollution Control Board takes up cleansing operation of Brahmaputra river on war footing.